

ever is modern is good for health. Motor cycles are more modern than hackney-carriages, but they are certainly not more beneficial for health. It is doubtful whether the modern electric lights, as we usually use them, are really better for the eye than other older forms of lamps. Moreover, what is modern today will not remain modern tomorrow. The human body and its normal physiological processes and biological functions are not changing from day to day. The fact that we are having new and newer method of cure at very frequent intervals proves that we are yet very far from a really sound principle consistent with the mechanism of human body. Under the circumstances, it will be highly injudicious to reject a principle of cure, which is based on a sound logical basis and which has been verified by innumerable patients for about a century and a half.

HOMŒOPATHY

DR. A. K. NANDI, B.Sc., F.I.C.S., C.S.G.M., BOMBAY

Normally natural immunity is developed as a person is repeatedly exposed to a small number of pathogenic organisms. These organisms may not be sufficient to cause actual disease, but can *stimulate* production of antibodies. This argument is an established *scientific* one, and is agreed upon by the members of the dominant school of medicine. If that is so, then there is no reason why they should not accept the dictum of *Similia Similibus Curantur* as it is one and the same thing as the above, only expressed in a different way.

When a person is suffering from any illness, that means to say that the said person has not got enough of the antibodies in his system to overcome the external invading disease, and as such he falls a victim to the said disease. Now by some means or the other if it is possible to *stimulate* the production of the antibodies in the

said person's system, then certainly the body will be able to repel all the invading organisms or poisonous matters and make the body free of that disease. So, if we can introduce some drug which is known to have the power of producing the same type of symptoms when given to a healthy person, then certainly, in potentized form, it will help to arrest the pernicious action of the disease, and get it thrown out of the body and thus cure the diseased person.

It has recently been established beyond any reason of doubt by Dr. W. E. Boyd that microdoses of drugs can stimulate Bio-chemical and Biological actions (c.f. The British Homœopathic Journal, January 1954, Vol. XLIV No. 1, pp. 6—44). These microdoses are nothing but the homœopathic high potencies used in our healing art. The dilutions were made in exactly the same way as the homœopathic potencies. It was done up to the tune of 10^{-61} , a dilution at which no trace of the drug is detectable by the various methods of tests so far known to the scientists of to-day. This should open the eyes of the old school scientific doctors. It is not that, just because one cannot see or feel a thing or matter it does not exist. There are still lots of things under the sun which men cannot see, explain or prove according to their own standards. Scientists have not yet been able to make living beings in the laboratory. Does that mean that living beings are not existing? It is wrong to pass a remark dogmatically against homœopathy, inspite of evidences after evidences of clinical proofs of the curing capabilities of homœopathy. These are not all just due to faith, coincidence or luck or some such nonsense. The members of the dominant school have become so biased (the reason for which is obvious and well-known) about homœopathy, that they do not feel the least ashamed to decry it, even though they do not know or cannot understand anything about it. I remember to have come across statements of the type:—"If a dog bites anybody, then give him one hair of that dog and the man will be alright," is what is homœopathy. But truth shall

always survive. If homœopathy is the true art of healing, it cannot but survive, inspite of all the detrimental criticism directed towards it. That is a challenge for all true homœopaths and they should take it up as such and leave no stones unturned to face it.

“सत्यमेव जयते” is the creed of Hindusthan and as such our Government must open their eyes and help foster the growth of Homœopathy to remove the sufferings of our countrymen. For the greater interest of the people of the country, the Government, if it is true to it's creed, should and must give Homœopathy the place of pride it deserves, which, has been denied to it so far, and not get swayed away by the defenders of vested interests. The healing art is not just a business proposition, but much more and above it.

The principle of homœopathy is superior to those of the Allopathic system of treatment. For most of the allopathic drugs, are too well-known for their adverse after-effects on the patients, though they give temporary relief.

The so-called wonder drugs of the allopathic system,—the Antibiotics and the sulfa-drugs, are notorious for their several drawbacks,—namely, toxic effect on the tissues, allergic reactions, side effects, drug resistance on continual use and, above all, the elimination of valuable bacteria from the intestines.

To cite an example of the elimination of the valuable factors by the Antibiotics and the Sulfa-drugs from the intestines, we can speak of Biotin or co-enzyme R; this is made in adequate amount by intestinal bacteria and in the normal course no deficiency should occur. But a continual use of Antibiotics or Sulfa-drugs reduces the Biotin supply, by eliminating the bacteria that is responsible for the production of these co-enzymes, and thus causes the deficiency. The adverse action of the Antibiotics on the intestinal flora is too well-known, and whenever it is administered for a few days continually the system has always got to be supplimented with vitamins and other tonics, particularly

the B-Complex group of the Vitamins. Para-amion Salicylic acid (it is commonly known as PAS) is known to produce intestinal irritation. A number of such examples can be cited. The bad effects of purging is known even to the illiterates and yet it is resorted to, more or less, in a routine manner by the followers of the old school of treatment. Some of their drugs are notoriously habit-forming. Their doses also go on increasing gradually, and there is practically no end of it, till the life of the patient is at an end.

Since homœopathic drugs have no such side reactions, toxic effect or habit-forming tendency, they are certainly more scientific. But, as a matter of fact it is the rule of homœopathy, not to repeat the medicine as long as the previous dose is still acting, for that will actually inetrfrere with its progress.

A theory of homœopathy is that when a person's *vital force* is not able to cope with the invading disease force, the system gives way and the person falls sick. Now if by some means or other, (before it is too late) the *vital force* of the patient can be *stimulated* and thus roused up to take up the fight and meet the demand that the situation calls for, then he will be able to overcome the illness, that he had been subjected to, due to the weakness of the *vital force* in his body. As a matter of fact it is always the *vital force* and not the medicine, that directly deals with the disease; the medicine here comes in the picture only indirectly, in so far as it directs the *vital force* towards cure. This is the reason why when a homœopathic remedy is administered in a chronic patient, generally a prolonged aggravation takes place. That is due to the fact that once the disease has taken up a chronic character it has actually settled itself as a permanent inhabitant in the patient's system, and goes on about it's business in a care-free fashion, as if there is nothing to worry about. Now as soon as the subdued *vital force* is again sufficiently being *stimulated* by

the homœopathic drug that was administered according to the totality of the symptoms, and attacks the care-free disease like a bolt from the blue, the disease force is taken aback, as it were and is defeated like a disorganised army in a battle field. The aggravation that takes place is due to the strong defence that is created again by the sudden stirring up of the vital force. But this aggravation goes off soon, and does not usually give the patient as much agony as the disease itself, when it was in it's full force. Here a caution must be sounded. If the condition of the patient is such that there is reason to doubt that the *vital force* is beyond all *stimulation* or the general condition of the patient is such that he may not be able to stand the aggravation, then one has to proceed very very carefully. At such a time, a very high or a very low potency of the indicated drug should not be employed.

In cases of acute disease an aggravation does not usually happen for a considerable length of time. The reason is that the case being an acute one the disease force has not yet been able to settle in the system, and the acuteness is the proof that the *vital force* is fighting with the disease. The stronger the *vital force* the more is the severity of the symptoms. A homœopathic drug administered at such a time only supplies the pep required by the *vital force* to defeat the disease force, and thus finishes up the job in a very short time. This is how the Magic of homœopathy that we hear of so often happens. This is also the reason why the convalescent period after homœopathic treatment is much shorter. The question of after-effect or side-reaction does not arise at all.

The Philosophy of Homœopathy is very akin to any religious Philosophy and it appeals to the religious minded people very easily, when they come across it. A truly pious man does not require a show to convince people that he is so. Likewise homœopathy has no show and does not believe in it. But the present world is so much after physical glamour that with all the qualifications it has to it's

credit, Homœopathy has yet been able to appeal to the people in general. The reason why even its cheapness of price does not attract the attention of the common people, is again the same love of glamour.

There are many instances which can be cited by the experienced people in this line that people resort to homœopathic treatment only when all others have given up all hopes in a certain case. Such cases were brought to Homœopaths for the first time, not for treatment but for a last trial. Fortunately many such cases also have been saved by Homœopathy.

VERATRUM VIRIDE IN HYPERTENSION

DR. HENRY W. EISEFELDER, M.D., F.A.G.S., NEW YORK

Veratrum viride is an American plant commonly known as green hellebore.¹ As with most botanicals, its chief alkaloids are protoveratrine (0.03 to 0.08%), jervine (0.01%), and rubijervine and veratroidine of which only traces are found. It is believed, however, that veratroidine plays an important part in the clinical use of the drug.

Although these alkaloids differ in some respects, they all have certain actions in common which justify consideration of them as a whole. All lower blood pressure, partly by action on the vasomotor centre, but chiefly on the vessel wall associated with weakening of the heart by direct action on its muscle. The cardiac vagus is first stimulated and then depressed and paralyzed. The respiratory center is depressed. Veratrine also causes a peculiar alteration in the voluntary muscles, leading to a very slow relaxation after contraction.

In the earlier days when bloodletting was a common procedure, *veratrum viride* was called a "therapeutic lancet" because, as H. C. Woods put it, "it bled a man into his own veins."

Veratrum formerly enjoyed a wide use in all schools